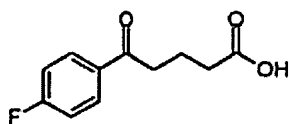


Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An improved process for the preparation of compound of formula-I



I

which comprises:

- (a) Preparing a solution of normal quality fluorobenzene, glutaric anhydride and halogenated solvent, the amount of fluorobenzene used being in a molar ratio of 0.5 to 0.7 molar equivalent with regard to the amount of glutaric anhydride used.
- (b) Preparing a mixture of aluminum chloride, normal quality fluorobenzene and halogenated solvent, the amount of fluorobenzene used being in a molar ratio of 0.5 to 0.6 molar equivalent with regard to the amount of glutaric anhydride used and the amount of halogenated solvent used being at least 4-6 times (w/v) with regard to the amount of glutaric anhydride used.
- (c) Adding the solution obtained in step (a) to the mixture obtained in step (b) at a temperature in the range of 10 to 25°C.
- (d) Maintaining the reaction mixture at the temperature in the range of 10 to 25°C for a period in the range of 2 to 4hrs.
- (e) Pouring the reaction mixture into could dilute hydrochloric acid.
- (f) Distilling the halogenated solvent at the atmospheric pressure for its recovery.

- (g) Filtering and washing the residue with the same halogenated solvent used in step (b) above to obtain the compound of the formula-I.
- (h) Purifying the compound of the formula-I by dissolving it in aqueous base and precipitating the product by acidification after giving a carbon treatment to the basic solution.
- (i) Isolating the precipitated compound of formula-I by filtration and if desired
- (j) Recrystalling the purified acid form a single or mixture of solvents.

2. (Original) An improved process for the preparation of compound of formula-I as claimed in claim 1(i) wherein the normal quality fluorobenzene used in the process has a benzene content of 300-700ppm, preferably between 300-500ppm.

3. (Currently Amended) An improved process for the preparation of compound of formula-I as claimed in claim 1 ~~claims 1 & 2~~ wherein the halogenated solvent used in the reaction is methylene, chloride, ethylene dichloride, 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethylene, preferably methylene chloride or ethylene dichloride.

4. (Currently Amended) An improved process for the preparation of compound of formula-I as claimed in claim 1 ~~claims 1 to 3~~ wherein the quality of solvent used is 6 to 10 times (w/v) on glutaric anhydride, preferably 8 to 10 times.

5. (Currently Amended) An improved process for the preparation of compound of formula-I as claimed in claim 1 ~~claims 1 to 4~~ wherein the reaction temperature is between 10-25°C, preferably between 12-18 °C.

6. (Currently Amended) An improved process for the preparation of compound of formula-I as claimed in claim 1 ~~claims 1 to 5~~ wherein the base used to dissolve the crude acid is ammonia, sodium, carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, sodium hydroxide, potassium carbonate, potassium bicarbonate, potassium hydroxide, ammonia, preferably sodium hydroxide or ammonia.

7. (Currently Amended) An improved process for the preparation of compound of formula-I as claimed in claim 1 ~~claims 1 to 6~~ wherein the acid used to neutralize the base is hydrochloric acid.